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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

White Helmets Commission: participation of volunteers in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001, 58/118 of 17 December 2003, 61/220 of 20 December 2006, 64/75 of 7 December 2009, 67/84 of 13 December 2012, 69/134 of 12 December 2014 and 70/105 of 28 December 2015,

Reaffirming also its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and reaffirming further other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Emphasizing the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

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Emphasizing also the need for close collaboration between relief and development activities in the context of humanitarian emergencies, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1]

Recognizing that the international community, in addressing the growing magnitude and complexity of disasters and chronic challenges, such as hunger, malnutrition and poverty, must rely on the formulation of a well-coordinated global response within the framework of the United Nations and on the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Underscoring the need, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and achieve development, to better align, wherever appropriate, humanitarian and development assistance with national development priorities and strategies, and encouraging Member States, as well as the United Nations system and regional organizations in supporting the efforts of Member States, to tackle the root causes of humanitarian crises, including poverty and underdevelopment, to strengthen disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, to build the resilience of affected States, including host communities, and to reduce humanitarian needs,

Recognizing the progress made by Member States, the United Nations system and other international organizations with regard to disaster risk management and coordination in the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing also that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[2] applies to the risk of small- and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden- and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

Recognizing further the need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Noting the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit,[3]

Noting also the contributions of the global, regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming the importance of continued efforts by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[2] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[3] A/71/353.

emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global, regional and field levels,

Emphasizing the importance of global, regional, national and local policies and strategies for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in disasters and humanitarian crises, with a view to integrating a gender perspective, as well as a perspective on the needs of children, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk reduction, and reaffirming that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, submitted in compliance with resolutions 46/182 and 72/133,[4] in particular paragraph 96 of the report, in which an update is provided on the collaboration between the White Helmets, an initiative of the Government of Argentina, and the United Nations and it is noted that since 1994, more than 700 White Helmets volunteers have provided assistance in 71 countries and undertaken 291 international humanitarian missions, many in coordination with the United Nations, and strengthened links with United Nations system agencies through agreements, joint workplans, financial support and field missions;

2. *Highlights* that the White Helmets is a volunteer corps composed entirely of civilians that develops its activities on the basis of cooperation, solidarity and the participation of communities;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the White Helmets to humanitarian assistance, disaster risk management and the achievement of sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* that the White Helmets initiative has demonstrated the potential of regional partnerships and has encouraged the participation of affected or vulnerable populations in the tasks of planning, training, mobilizing and providing an immediate response in disaster situations and complex emergencies, while integrating a gender perspective into its activities;

5. *Commends* national and international volunteers, including the White Helmets, for their contributions and their fundamental role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

6. *Takes note* of the renewal, signed in 2016, of the memorandum of understanding between the White Helmets and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which established the framework for the deployment of White Helmets volunteers in support of the emergency responses of the Office of the High Commissioner, and recognizes the efforts made by the World Food Programme and the White Helmets for joint action within the framework of food security, including the exchange of information among stakeholders in the field, and the international humanitarian assistance activities that the White Helmets developed with the International Organization for Migration;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization, and operational partners of the United Nations, in providing psychosocial support to the disaster-affected population in emergency and disaster situations, to draw, as appropriate, on the voluntary expertise of the White Helmets,

[4] A/73/78-E/2018/54.

which has been successfully tested, and invites Member States to consider means of integrating the White Helmets initiative into their programme activities;

8. *Recognizes* the international humanitarian activities that the White Helmets developed in the period from 2016 to 2018 in coordination with the national authorities of disaster-affected countries and the agencies of the United Nations system and its partners in the design, preparedness, organization and deployment of humanitarian assistance, including response, recovery and reconstruction following disasters and building of resilience, and in addressing the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the experience acquired, to continue to consider the use of the White Helmets initiative as a resource suitable for preventing and mitigating the effects of disasters and other humanitarian crises;

10. *Recognizes* the agreement signed between the United Nations Office for Project Services and the White Helmets Commission, which extends until 2019 and will allow for the continuation of the work launched in 1995, and invites Member States to consider means of supporting collaboration of the White Helmets with their programme activities and to consider making financial resources available to the special voluntary fund of the United Nations Office for Project Services;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the work experience acquired by the White Helmets in the international field, as recognized in various resolutions of the General Assembly, and in view of the success of coordinated actions carried out with, inter alia, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Volunteers, to suggest measures to enhance the collaboration of the White Helmets initiative with the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.